

Prevention in Kansas

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Meet and greet events wrap-up for the state

October and November have been busy months for the new prevention partners for Family First and Family Preservation. DCF Service centers in Topeka, Pittsburg, Kansas City, Lawrence, Colby, and Wichita hosted meet and greets. Two events remain in Garden City and Great Bend.

Providers found this opportunity crucial in their plan to connect with the staff who will be referring families to their services. Jasmine T., CPS Supervisor in the Kansas City region, shared her enthusiasm for the options Family First brought to the table for her team when working with families.

“We are excited for Family First as we feel these additional services to Kansas families are long overdue. We strongly believe connecting families with targeted services

that better meet their needs will directly impact the need for future DCF involvement as well as provide families with necessary resources to increase child safety. We look forward to building relationships with our Family First community partners.”

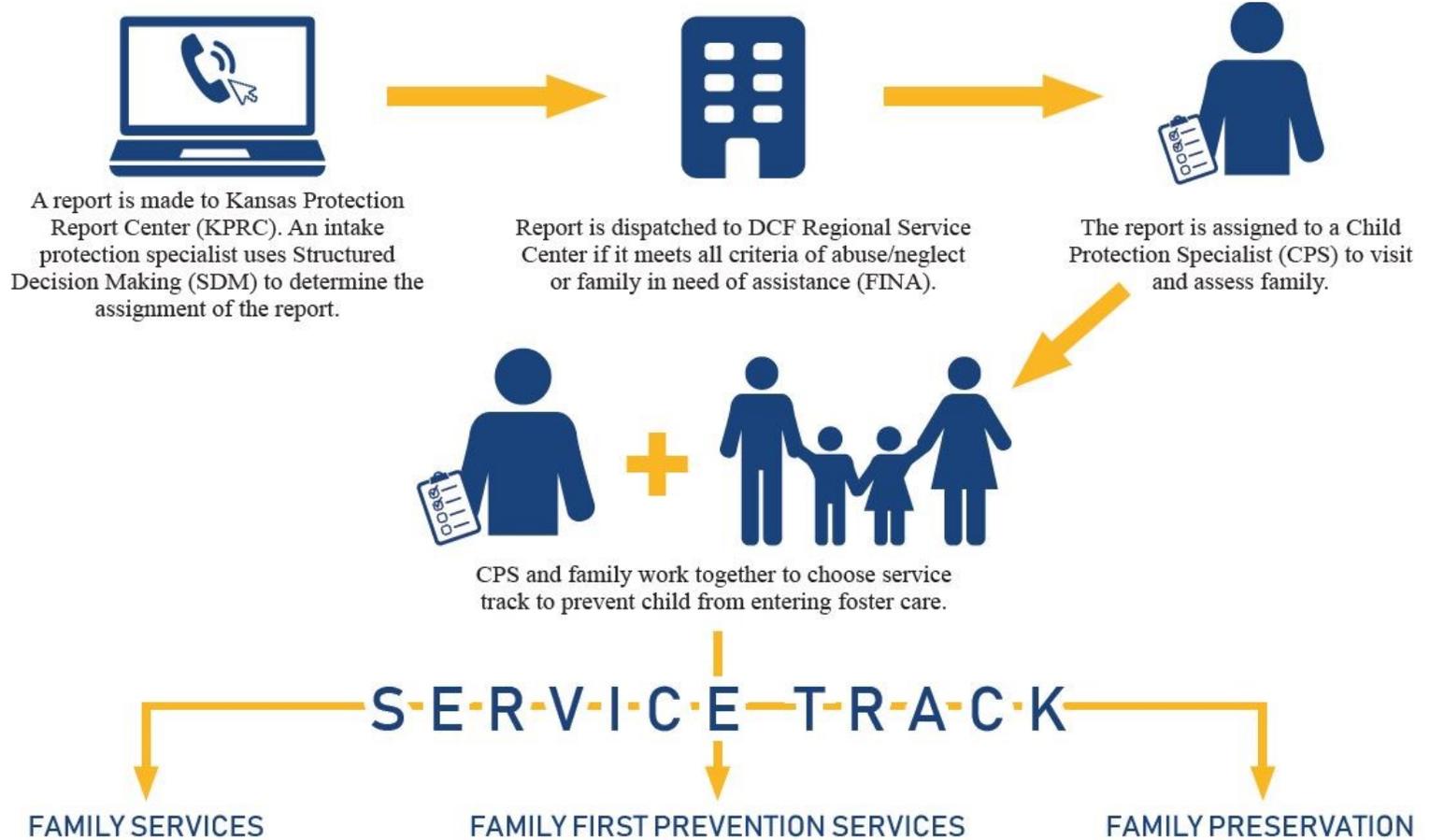
Providers also commented on the positive impact of these events, “We were thrilled to get acquainted with DCF employees across the regions, and the providers of the prevention programs. It’s an exciting time for Kansas and we were so happy to be a part of it,” said Mark Leavell, Director of Home and Community Based Services at Great Circle.

The Prevention Team thanks everyone for their attendance at these events. See page 6 and 7 for a photo montage of the meet and greets throughout the state.



Above: Mark Leavell (Great Circle) at the Topeka meet and greet. Right: Wyandotte staff learn more about KUMCRI Project Eagle and ABC.

Working with families to select the right prevention program



When families are assessed by a DCF CPS, there are multiple paths they will review with the family before making a final determination. Staff have three main service tracks to access for foster care prevention, which include Family Services, Family First Prevention Services, and Family Preservation Services. DCF believes all services are based on family-centered practice. Referrals to ongoing services will be based on the CPS family assessments and family choice.

Family Services may be offered in non-crisis situations to families in need. Family Services may include concrete goods, services, and case management to alleviate a specific situation the family is facing. A CPS can offer these through referrals to community agencies. Services can be provided without regard to income and may be voluntary or court ordered. Family Services may help families locate and use additional assistance through community support systems, counseling and treatment services, housing, child care, job training,

and other basic support systems.

Family First Prevention Services are evidence-based programs in the areas of mental health, substance use disorder treatment services, kinship navigator, and parent skill-based programs. These services may be provided to families when at least one child in the home is at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. These providers, or grantees, were selected to suit the unique needs of each community. A Family First referral will come from DCF staff after they and the family have consulted and reviewed the services available in their county. Services are unique to counties, regions, or catchment areas.

Family Preservation Services has been the state's highly accessed prevention program for families and will remain an option for home-based, intensive, therapeutic and/or case management service offered to families in crisis when children are at high risk of out-of-home placement. A unique aspect to the Family Preservation program is services are accessible in all 105 coun-

ties in Kansas and case management crisis services are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Each region has one Family Preservation provider, or contractor. Each contractor may help the family with concrete goods and services including exterminator services, head lice treatment supplies, clothes, rent and deposits, bus passes, car repairs and refrigerators. New Family Preservation contracts will begin on Jan. 1, 2020.

One of the most common questions from people regarding the service track is how do you distinguish between Family First and Family Preservation when referring families? Although the CPS consults and reviews services in their region with the family to help guide them, DCF believes families should be an active decision-maker in selecting services for themselves and their children.

Please refer to issue 01, for a complete list of Family First Grantees and Family Preservation Contracts in Kansas.

Prevention Provider Spotlight: CAPS

Located in Salina since 1978, Child Advocacy and Parenting Services, Inc., or CAPS, has been at the forefront to eliminate child abuse in the community. Beginning as a grassroots volunteer organization, the founders implemented a hotline for parents to call when feeling overwhelmed, needing someone to talk with, or even to have trusted childcare to give them a break from the stresses

of parenting. That phone number eventually turned into a number for community members to report concerns about child abuse, serving as a precursor to the statewide reporting hotline, and remains the telephone number for CAPS today. CAPS' mission is to improve children's lives and strengthen families through education, advocacy and support.

Family First Selected Program

Selected for the Family First grant is a program that has been in existence for 27 years, the Family Mentoring Program, which utilizes the evidence-based model, Nurturing Parenting Program. Referrals are for families of children ages 0-17 who are at risk for out of home placement. Families that seek to improve their parenting skills, experiencing stress, or feeling overburdened are all appropriate referrals. The Family First Prevention Grant will allow service to 100 new families, expanding services to Ottawa County and increasing capacity to Saline County. The purpose of the Family Mentoring Program is to educate parents about healthy child development through parenting skills training and comprehensive, professional support. Services include in-home visitation, case management, one-on-one parent training, classroom parenting skills

training, parent/child relationship intervention, support and a free weekly session of respite childcare. Within this role of the Family Mentor, families are provided parenting skills training to meet their individual strengths and needs through both in-home instruction and a group classroom setting. They also receive advocacy and support during mental health or academic wrap arounds, budget planning, access to local financial assistance programs, de-escalation of family turmoil, and referral to mental health, medical clinics, substance-use treatment evaluations and outpatient services. Families often request attendance at stressful appointments with them to aid in their communication skills and tension reduction. The Family Mentors also help families in accessing emergency housing resources and filing protection from

abuse orders within the court system. "This is a great asset to families as well, as they will receive parent coaching at their own pace which creates a model for practice, learning and implementation," said Chelsea Sutton, Director of the Family Mentoring Program at CAPS. Sutton has long dreamed about an opportunity such as this. "The Family First Grant will provide an increased capacity for CAPS to serve more at-risk children in both Saline and Ottawa Counties," she said.

Outside of Family First, CAPS will continue to offer Family Mentoring through community referrals.



Chelsea Sutton, Director of the Family Mentoring Program, at Child Advocacy and Parenting Services

CAPS SNAPS



Vicki Price, Chelsea Sutton, and Lori Johnson with Secretary Howard at the Family First news conference.



CAPS vision is to create a place where every child is safe, healthy and strong.



CAPS crew attending Motivational Interviewing training at WSU



CAPS is housed in the Donna Vanier Children's Center, a building made possible through generous community collaboration, which gives children and families a cheerful, homey place to strengthen family connections through education, advocacy and support by CAPS professional staff.

Photos courtesy of Child Advocacy & Parenting Services Facebook page

Family First collaborations and referral readiness



Family First brings mental health programs, substance use disorder services, parent skill-building programs, and kinship navigation to prevent out-of-home placement of children.

Projects Coordinator, said a collaboration with both LDCHD and DCF meant progress in coordinating primary prevention and intervention for vulnerable families. “This partnership facilitates an effective and efficient allocation of resources to meeting the needs of families experiencing challenges to successfully parenting their young children.”

Among the grantees seeking to offer families evidence-

As an early adopter of the Family First Prevention Services Act, one of the challenges for the State and the grantees was the fast-paced timeline to implement with the Oct. 1 deadline. Some of the selected grantees were already providing evidence-based services to communities, Family First gave them the opportunity to increase capacity, expand service areas and partner with new agencies

Kansas University Medical Center, Project Eagle, based out of Wyandotte county, and LiveWell Northwest Kansas located in Colby, both provide Attachment and Bio-behavioral Catch-up (ABC) with fidelity to the model. The two agencies agreed to partner for the Family First grant to serve different areas of the state with the same California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse rated well-supported program.

Receiving the first Family First referral in Kansas was the Lawrence Douglas County Health Department and their partner Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County. Rich Minder, Success by 6 Collaborative

based programs that are entirely new for Kansas, is Community Solutions, Inc., providing Multisystemic Therapy (MST). This well-supported intensive in-home therapy targets youth ages 12-17.

“The CSI teams established through the Family First Prevention Grant will be the only licensed MST teams in the state and will be the first in Kansas to exclusively serve youth in the child welfare system,” said Terri Williams, Chief Development Officer at Community Solutions, Inc.

CSI will have offices for their staff in Salina, Wichita, Pittsburg, and Topeka, however the majority of the work the therapists do take place in the home of the family being served. Williams said the program is still recruiting for staff and expects to start before the end of the year.

“We will hold our first 5 day MST staff training in early December and anticipate serving our first families on or around December 9th.”

Grantees Accepting Referrals

CAPS — Family Mentoring

*DCCCA– A-CRA

Kansas Legal Services — Kin-TECH (for EAST , KC , and WICHITA regions. WEST region in December)

Kansas Parents as Teachers – PAT

*KUMC, Project Eagle / LiveWell— ABC

*Success by 6/ LDCHD — HFA

Grantees on deck for Accepting Referrals in 2019

*Community Solutions, Inc– MST

*Cornerstones — FFT

*Foster Adopt Connect, Inc– Fostering Prevention

Horizons — P-CIT

*KCSL– PCAP

SFM – FCT

SFM — Seeking Safety

Grantees working on timelines for Accepting Referrals after 2020

Great Circle — HFA

KCSL— HFA

TFI – PCIT

Refer to issue 01 for comprehensive list of grantees, counties served and program names.

* may not be taking referrals at full capacity

All future timelines are estimates

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Prevention Provider Spotlight: Cornerstones of Care

Cornerstones of Care provides behavioral healthcare for children and families in Kansas, Missouri and beyond. They use an integrated, evidence-based, trauma-informed care model that leverages decades of expertise to identify and address trauma, and providing critical social services and healthcare support to communities they serve. Cornerstones of Care provides hope and understanding from the moment individuals and families first face crisis, to the

point of recovery and resilience.

The organization's roots go back to 1870. Almost 150 years later, Cornerstones of Care continues to partner for safe and healthy communities through their six service areas of education, mental and behavioral health, foster care and adoption, youth support, family support and community trainings.



"We're beyond honored and grateful to grow our partnership with the State of Kansas across the DCF East region. We strongly believe in prevention services and will work closely with children, families and community partners through a trauma-informed philosophy. Together, we can keep children safe and families together."

— Denise Cross, Cornerstones of Care president and CEO



Clockwise: Donna Rozell, Executive Director of Kansas Programs; David Irwin, FFT Clinical Manager, and Sara Barnes, Clinical Director, Outpatient Services; Kristalle Hedrick, Associate Executive Director of Kansas Programs.

Selected Programs

Trauma-informed care is at the center of everything Cornerstones of Care does. Certified through the Sanctuary Institute to provide an array of services that empower individuals to live safe, productive and non-violent lives, they strive to nurture the self-worth of all individuals in their care and to, above all, create a safe, healing environment that respects dignity and inclusion for everyone involved.

Cornerstones of Care will be the Family Preservation provider for the East region. Providing the evidence-based program, Solution Based Casework, they help Kansas families who are struggling with creating a safe home, and are therefore at imminent risk of being separated. Many times, the families they work with feel stuck and/or powerless in their current situation. The team partners with the entire family in their home, helping them learn how to better connect, communicate and ultimately make positive changes that improve their safety and health.

Staff provide these immediate individualized services to families directly in their home in addition to being available 24/7 for additional support and guidance. Families can also expect to receive assistance with managing stress and emotions, identifying/practicing positive interactions, determining appropriate discipline strategies, and other life skills.

Cornerstones of Care is also bringing Functional Family Therapy (FFT) as part of Family First. This program is a well-documented, short-term, in-home family intervention service for families with youth who have been categorized as delinquent or pre-delinquent.

The high-level goals of FFT are to improve family communication and supportiveness, help the family adopt positive solutions to family problems and develop positive behavior change and parenting strategies. Each family receives an outline of goals based on their unique situation and areas of growth so that they can safely stay together.



Topeka staff enjoying the open house



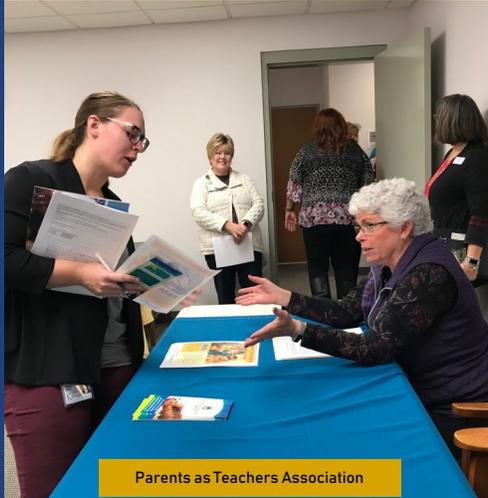
KCSL in Pittsburg



TFI meeting Pittsburg frontline staff



Lawrence Douglas County Health Department



Parents as Teachers Association



DCF Staff learning about DCCCA for Family Pres



Community Solutions, Inc. and DCF Staff



Cornertsones of Care and DCF Staff



Colby Meet and Greet



Statewide grantee, Kansas Legal Services

Kansas Parents As Teachers Association

KPAITA

Mission

To be a leading force in the support, education, and expansion of programs in Kansas using the Parents as Teachers (PAT) curriculum so that all Kansas children will develop to their fullest potential.



Statewide grantee, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association



Great turnout in Wichita



East Region Leadership



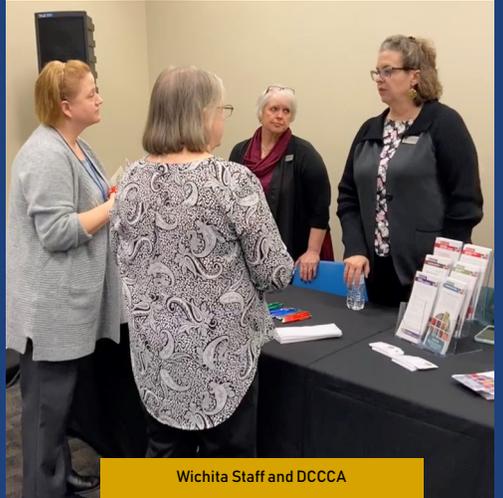
West Region Leadership



FosterAdopt Connect in KC



Kansas Children's Service League in Wichita



Wichita Staff and DCCCA



Kansas City Region Leadership



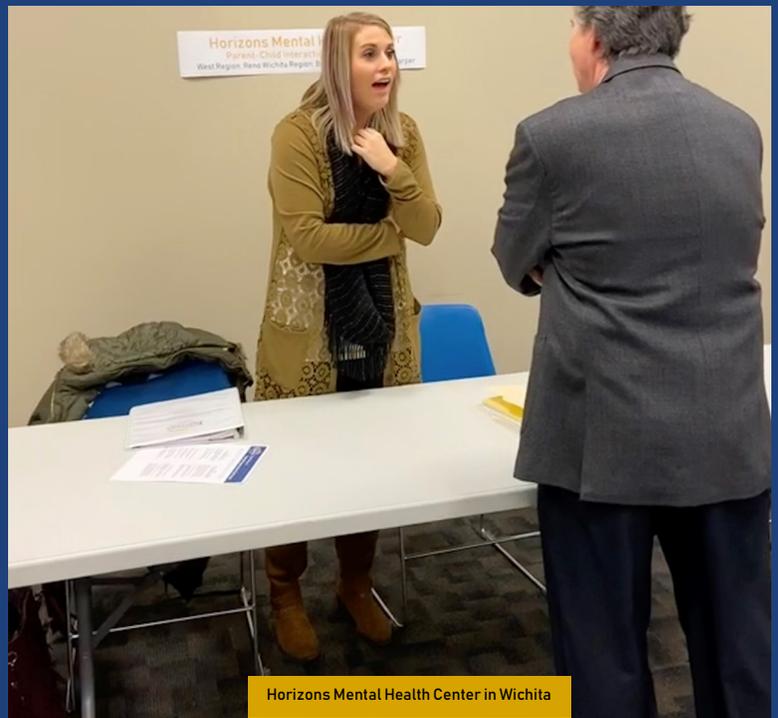
Wichita Regional Director, Tom Buell



CSI in Topeka



Saint Francis Ministries in Wichita



Horizons Mental Health Center in Wichita